



U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Civil Air Patrol: *Supporting communities in time of need*



CAP CAPT. AUDREY DIGIANTOMASSO

Above: Cadets from Alaska, including cadets from Elmendorf's 17th Composite Squadron, demonstrate marching skills they learned during an encampment in July. Encampment is held once a year and lead by senior CAP members. Cadets are sent to this event for one-week to train and learn military basics. Right: Cadets raise the largest flag ever flown in Alaska during a re-dedication ceremony in June to return the flag to full staff in honor of President Ronald Reagan's memorial.



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TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN

Above: CAP cadet Staff Sgt. Erika Maakestad and CAP Lt. Col. Maynard Perkins, flight instructor, perform a pre-flight check list before her next flight recently at Birchwood Airport. As cadet's progress through training, they receive free orientation flights to learn the principles of aviation and aerospace flight. On the cover: CAP cadet Maj. D.J. Burand does flight planning.

CAP: Aerospace education, cadet training, and emergency services

By CAP cadet Tech. Sgt. Matthew Toussain
Cadet Public Affairs

Serving your community, state and nation in little ways often leads to much greater devotion to that community, state and nation. This can be seen in the Civil Air Patrol Program. One week before the attack on Pearl Harbor, American civilians pledged their loyalty to their country — and their loyalty did not falter throughout the war.

When it was founded, CAP's mission was to defend the U.S. in the event of a war and as time would tell, war did come about — but CAP was there to help. The daring pilots of CAP flew countless missions to find and destroy German submarines. By the end of the war, they had dropped 57 depth charges and 83 bombs.

After the war, CAP continued to perform search and rescue missions. The volunteers of CAP were rewarded for their work on July 1, 1946 when President Harry Truman signed public law 476, which declared CAP as a charitable non-profit organization. Then, on May 26, 1948 CAP became the Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Eventually, CAP adopted aerospace education, the Cadet Program and emergency services as its three main segments.

■ Aerospace education offers cadets ages 12-18 flight

training (powered and glider), model rocketry, astronomy and education on the principles of flight.

■ Because of the success of the Cadet Program, 6-10 percent of each class entering the military service academies, are CAP members. Much of this can be attributed to the leadership training, public speaking, physical fitness and sports activities the Cadet Program teaches.

■ The CAP aids the community by helping with search and rescue, survival training, disaster relief, photography, radio communications and first aid.

According to cadet Maj. D.J. Burand, former cadet squadron commander, "The Cadet Program is an excellent program, in which young men and women are given the opportunity to grow in maturity and increase their physical aptitude. They will also learn important skills that they will retain for the rest of their lives — all the while becoming an individual of substance in their community, state, and nation."

Those interested in learning more about CAP, call CAP Lt. Col. Don Burand, deputy commander for cadets at the 17th Composite Squadron (Arcturus), at 222-2770.

People are also welcome to go to one of CAP's meetings at the Aero Club Hanger from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturdays or visit www.caparcturus.bravehost.com or www.capnhq.gov.



MASTER SGT. MILTON TOUSSAIN



TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN

Above: CAP Lt. Col. Maynard Perkins and CAP Capt. Jeff Banks review training records for CAP cadet Maj. D.J. Burand. Major Burand is being recommended to get his private pilot's license. Left: CAP Maj. Jim McCarthy, Alaska Wing emergency services coordinator and pilot, speaks to cadets and senior members in preparation for a day of glider training.